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ABSTRACT

This annual report details the 1996-97 activities of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth, an independent agency created by the Tennessee General Assembly with the mission of advocating for improvements in the quality of life for Tennessee children and families. Following introductory letters from the commission's chair, Phillip Boyd, and its executive director, Linda O'Neal, the report describes the commission's administration, including its standing committees, commission meetings, staff, budget, and program activities. Information on activities is presented in seven sections dealing with advocacy, juvenile justice, evaluation, information dissemination, ombudsman activities, teen pregnancy. and Title VI. The report also contains a list of members, contact information, and council events for the regional councils. (KB)

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Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth

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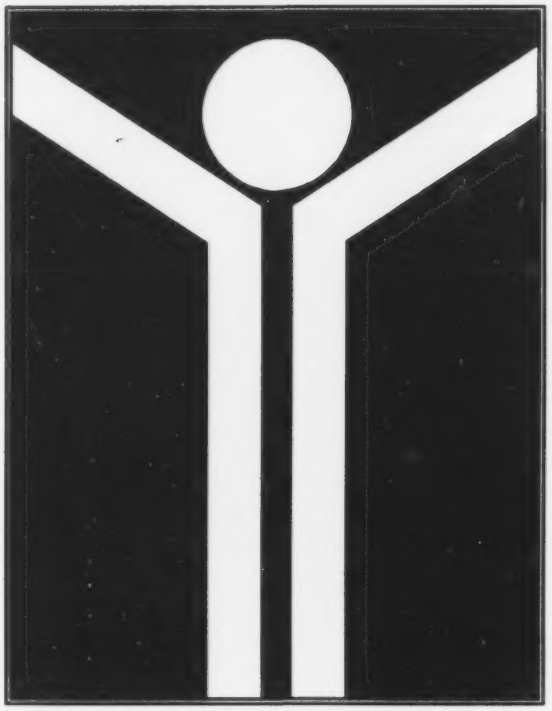

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 1996-97

PS 027101

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Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth Fiscal Year 1996-97 Annual Report

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

August 12, 1997

Dear Reader:

"A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in or the kind of car I drove... but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child."*

I came upon this quote and found I really appreciated the thought behind the words. A year ago when I was appointed as chairman of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth, I felt my experience as a father, grandfather, and practicing attorney in the juvenile courts of Tennessee would promote insight into the world of children. I soon found there is much to learn about child advocacy.

The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth has an obligation to the children of Tennessee to ensure that they receive the best our state has to offer. To guarantee this goal, we must provide agencies serving children with the assistance needed to effectively do the job. In the last year, attention was focused on assisting Governor Sundquist, who has made children his priority. Perhaps his role as a father, grandfather and his personal experience made it easy for him to commit to this goal. The success of the Families First Program and spotlighting juvenile crime is now visible to every Tennessean. The Commission is utilizing all facilities to meet this call. Faces change, laws have been amended, but this has not slowed our striving, as an agency, to improve the quality of life for our children.

On a personal note, I commend the wonderful staff of the Commission. These people are totally committed to the betterment of children. It has been an education for us to see the dedication of the staff in the quest for "Children First."

If there is a single goal the Commission seeks to achieve in the coming year, it is to work in consort with our sister agencies. The children of Tennessee are our future. As the next century approaches, our goal should be that the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth "is important in the life of a child."

Sincerely yours,

Phillip L. Boyd

Phillip Larry Boyd
Chairman

* ©1993 Kathy Davis

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Reader:

Fiscal year 1996-97 was another productive year for the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY). We experienced a change in Commission leadership, with a new chair and new members. Staff and regional council members are counting on the Commission to continue its mission of advocacy with the primary question in any policy decision, "Is this in the best interests of Tennessee children and families?" Advocacy in the legislative arena in 1997 resulted in an extension of TCCY's track record of helping to shape positive legislation for children, while avoiding new laws that would have an adverse impact.

TCCY launched two new programs during fiscal year 1996-97. The Ombudsman Program provides a mediation approach to solving issues of children in state custody. It helps children and families understand that the system has performed according to plan, or it helps the children receive the services that should be provided. The Impact Study assesses the impact of TennCare managed care Medicaid services on children with serious emotional disturbances. The Impact Study is conducted through contracts involving a collaboration of public and private agencies, including TCCY.

The regional councils continued significant growth during the fiscal year. Their average membership increased 12 percent from 204 in fiscal year 1995-96 to 228 in 1996-97. Regional councils provide important networking and grassroots advocacy opportunities. Their challenge for the future is to actively engage more of their members in public policy efforts.

In March the Children's Program Outcome Review Team (C-PORT) began its fourth year of systematically assessing how well children in state custody and their families are doing and how well the system is functioning to meet their needs. It provides critical information for system planning and system improvement. C-PORT continues to receive accolades from evaluators and children's advocates. Other states have contacted the Commission for information about replicating C-PORT.

Tennessee remained in compliance with the core requirements for eligibility for federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act funds. These dollars provide important seed money for prevention and early intervention services in Tennessee.

Child advocates, service providers, and a range of other Tennesseans rely on Kids Count reports to provide them with the best available data on the status of children and families in the state for program and service improvement and in system planning and developing funding proposals for private, foundation, local, state, and federal funding.

The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth staff is a dedicated group of professionals who are committed to improving the quality of life for Tennessee children and families. We urge all Tennesseans to join with us and the members of the Commission on Children and Youth as we strive for a brighter tomorrow for all Tennessee children and families.

Sincerely,

Linda O'Neal

Linda O'Neal
Executive Director

ADMINISTRATION

The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY) is an independent agency created by the Tennessee General Assembly. The primary mission of the Commission is advocacy for improvements in the quality of life for Tennessee children and families. There has been a Commission on Children and Youth or Children's Services Commission in Tennessee continuously since the 1950s. The current statutory framework for the Commission on Children and Youth was enacted in 1988.

Appointed by the Governor for overlapping three-year terms, the 21 Commission members serve as the policy board for the agency. At least one Commission member represents each development district, and the commissioners of state departments serving children, or their designees, are ex-officio members. The Commission also has youth advisory members as necessary to meet the requirements for serving as the State Advisory Group under the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.

Committees

The Commission had five standing committees to oversee the operations of the agency during fiscal year 1996-1997. The Commission officers and committee chairs served as the Executive Committee. The chair is appointed by the Governor to a three-year term. Other officers, vice-chair and secretary, are elected by the Commission. committee chairs and members are appointed by the Commission chair.

The Budget and Data Committee was responsible for fiscal matters such as Commission budget requests, budget analysis, and recommendations and for agency efforts to collect and disseminate information, including *The Advocate*, *Kids Count: The State of the Child in Tennessee*, and other publications.

The Councils and Interdepartmental Responsibilities Committee reviewed activities related to the nine regional councils on children and youth and interdepartmental activities, including teen-pregnancy and school dropout prevention.

The Children's Services Committee provided oversight for Commission activities in the evaluation of the Children's Program Outcome Review Team (C-PORT). It also reviewed development and implementation of the TCCY Ombudsman Program in the delivery of children's services, including child welfare services, juvenile justice services, and mental health services to children in custody. Additionally, this committee was responsible for overseeing the Impact Study evaluation of mental health service delivery for children who are not in state custody.

The Juvenile Justice Committee as a committee of the whole supervised the implementation of the Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act in Tennessee, the administration of state funds for juvenile justice, and other juvenile justice activities.

ADMINISTRATION

The Minority Issues Committee ensured adequate consideration of the needs of minority children in all TCCY efforts, with particular attention given to disproportionate minority confinement (DMC) in the juvenile justice system, including recommendations from a statewide task force on how to reduce DMC. The committee was also responsible for the development of the agency plan to address issues related to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Commission Meetings

During fiscal year 1996-97, the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth met six times to carry out its responsibilities. Outside speakers addressed the Commission on a range of issues affecting children and youth. Primary topics for the Commission meetings included Department of Children's Services Updates; TennCare Partners Overview and Advocacy Perspective; Department of Human Services Update; Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act History, Roles and Advocacy Perspective; Department of Health Programs Impacting Children and Families; Service Testing and Children's Program Evaluation – Children's Program Outcome Review Team (C-PORT); Impact Study of Managed Care Services for Children with Serious Emotional Disturbances; Legislative Review; Public/Private Funding and Partnerships; and Child Watch.

Commission Membership

P. Larry Boyd, Chair
Rogersville

Beth Alexander
Nashville

Kimalishea Anderson
Knoxville

Jarrett Austin
Nashville

Suzanne Bailey
Chattanooga

James Berrong
Maryville

Callie Birdsong
Nashville

Shirlene Booker
Gray

Betty Cannon
Nashville

Kristin Cunningham
Franklin

Deborah Davis
South Pittsburg

Erica Davis
Memphis

Kevin Gallagher
Memphis

Judy Gilley
Cleveland

Connie Givens
Rogersville

Drew Johnson
Johnson City

Jim Kidd
Fayetteville

George Lovell
Columbia

Sharon Massey
Clarksville

Linda Miller
Memphis

Mary Kate Ridgeway
Paris

Patrick Steele
McKenzie

James Stewart
Jackson

Brenda Vickers
Cookeville

Donna Roberts Wohlford
Bristol

Jeune Wood
Memphis

*At press time.

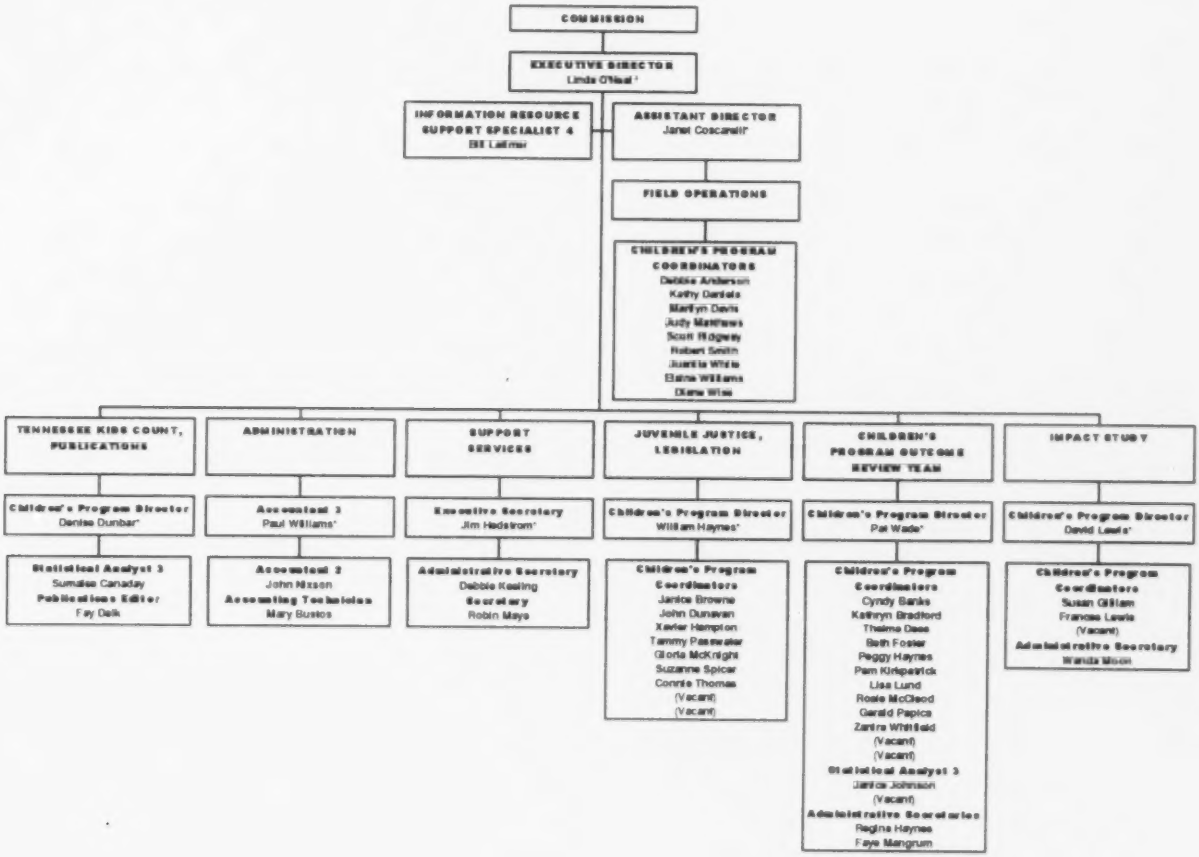
Anita McClure, Memphis; Sam Nailling, Union City; June Perrigan, Jackson; May Shayne, Nashville; Gerald Stow, Brentwood; and Pamela Wiggington, Franklin, served as members of the Commission during FY 1996-97 until their terms expired, and they were replaced.

ADMINISTRATION

Staff

The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth has 53 full-time positions and five part-time secretarial positions. Nine full-time workers and the part-time staff provide support to the regional councils on children and youth and carry out other regional and local Commission responsibilities. One full-time staff member, located in Dunlap, monitors facilities for compliance with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act and monitors OJJDP federal formula grants. The other personnel are located in the Nashville central office. The organizational chart for the Commission indicates current staff.

Organizational Chart



*Supervisory positions

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TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN & YOUTH
ACTUAL EXPENDITURES
BY OBJECT CODE / FUNDING SOURCES
FISCAL YEAR 1996-1997

	STATE	FEDERAL	INTERDEPT.	KIDS COUNT	SED IMPACT STUDY	TOTAL
Personal Services and Benefits						
Salaries / Longevity	$581,723	$146,947	$478,065	$19,000	$8,900	$1,234,635
Benefits	123,788	46,555	124,699	7,900	2,881	305,823
Total Personal Services and Benefits	**$705,511**	**$193,502**	**$602,764**	**$26,900**	**$11,781**	**$1,540,459**
Other Expenditures						
Travel	$36,248	$21,860	$99,782	$349	$175	$158,414
Printing, Duplicating, Binding	27,114	8,401	10,302	351	42	46,210
Communications & Shipping Costs	20,806	3,442	8,338	1,406	397	34,389
Maintenance, Repairs & Services	3,264	1,306	4,114			8,683
Professional Services & Dues	52,224	10,414	83,559	2,156	950	149,303
Supplies & Materials	7,820	37,442	9,194	858	1,144	56,458
Rentals & Insurance	69,334	12,554	72,949		5,523	160,360
Awards & Indemnities	77					77
Grants & Subsidies	51,645	995,377	1,114,834	34		2,161,890
Equipment		27,183	3,273		6,279	36,736
Total Other Expenditures	**$268,531**	**$1,117,979**	**$1,406,346**	**$5,154**	**$14,510**	**$2,812,520**
Total Expenditures by Source of Funds	**$974,042**	**$1,311,481**	**$2,009,110**	**$32,054**	**$26,291**	**$4,352,979**
Personnel by Primary Source of Funds						
Full-Time	18	8	21	2	4	53
Part-Time	5	0	0	0	0	5
Seasonal	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Personnel	23	8	21	2	4	58
Positions						
Full-Time	18	8	21	2	4	53
Part-Time	5	0	0	0	0	5
Seasonal	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Positions	23	8	21	2	4	58

BUDGET

TCCY FY 96 - 97 Expenditures By Program

Program	Total Expenditures Of Programs	State Programs	Federal Programs	Interdepartmental Programs	Other Programs
Advocacy: To provide leadership for advocacy activities on behalf of children and families in Tennessee.	$247,979	$247,979			
Juvenile Justice: To implement the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act in Tennessee and efficiently and effectively administer state and federal Juvenile Justice funds.	2,567,710	136,229	1,311,481	1,120,000	
Children's Services Evaluation: To conduct the Children's Program Outcome Review Team (C-PORT) process, an independent evaulation of the delivery of services to children in state custody and their families.	889,110			889,110	
Regional Councils on Children and Youth: To develop and support Regional Councils on Children and Youth and to carry out appropriate regional activities related to the Department of Children's Services.	436,988	436,988			
Information Dissemination: To effectively implement the Tennessee KIDS COUNT project for the collection, analysis and dissemination of data on indicators of the well being of children in Tennessee and to disseminate other appropriate information.	123,842	91,788			32,054
Coordination of Services: To engage in efforts to improve coordination in the delivery of services to children and families in Tennessee.	25,067	25,067			
Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Parenting: To efficiently and effectively administer state teen pregnancy prevention and teen parenting funds.	35,991	35,991			
Seriously Emotionally Disturbed Impact Study: To conduct intensive case reviews to assess the impact of managed care on the delivery of TennCare/Medicaid services to Children, with a special focus on children with serious emotional disturbances.	26,291				26,291
Total Expenditures by Source of Funds	**$4,352,979**	**$974,043**	**$1,311,481**	**$2,009,110**	**$58,345**

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ADVOCACY

The primary mission of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth is to provide leadership for advocacy activities on behalf of children and families. Major strategies for effective advocacy include extensive networking and efforts to assist in the coordination of services.

A number of Commission activities combine advocacy and coordination of services. Many of these activities also comply with specific statutory mandates of the advocacy and coordination responsibilities. These responsibilities are to:

- Make recommendations concerning establishment of priorities and needed improvements with respect to programs and services for children and youth;
- Advocate and coordinate the efficient and effective development and enhancement of state, local, and regional programs and services for children and youth.

Children's Advocacy Day – 1997

Children's Advocacy Day (CAD) is a major advocacy event sponsored by the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth annually in March to coincide with the Tennessee General Assembly's session. On March 11, 1997, more than 200 child advocates from the nine TCCY regional councils and other advocacy organizations met in Nashville at the Capitol Old Supreme Court Room and Legislature to participate in CAD. Advocates came together to:

- meet with legislators to discuss relevant children and youth issues;
- observe legislative sessions;
- receive legislative updates;
- network with advocates from other parts of the state;
- hear updates on issues affecting children; and
- present the Jim Pryor Child Advocacy Award.

Presentations on current legislation were provided by Representative Brenda Turner of Chattanooga, chair of the new Children and Family Affairs Committee of the Tennessee House of Representatives, and Linda O'Neal, TCCY executive director. After the program, members visited with legislators to discuss current legislation and major council events.

Tommy Perkins from Chattanooga was awarded the Jim Pryor Child Advocacy Award for his significant work in family and children's services at the national, state, and local levels.

TCCY councils sponsored a reception from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Tennessee Education Association Building. Governor Sundquist, all state legislators, commissioners of state departments serving children, other recognized child advocates, and all CAD participants were invited to the reception.

The League of Women Voters (LWV) of Tennessee, Tennessee National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), and TCCY collaborated to present a forum on the afternoon of Children's Advocacy Day. The forum entitled "Tennessee Juvenile Justice: Where Have We Been and Where Are We Going?" was held in the Old Supreme Court Room of the Tennessee State Capitol and was open to Children's Advocacy Day participants as well as members of the sponsoring organizations.

The forum provided the opportunity for participants to learn about current national and state issues in the juvenile justice arena. Presenters for the forum included Dee Nollner, Juvenile Services chair, LWV of Tennessee; Lauren Lerner, State Public Affairs chair, NCJW; The Honorable Carol Chumney, Tennessee House of Representatives; Kathy Morante, Tennessee Deputy Attorney General; Captain Bill Hamblin, Metro Nashville Police Department; Randy Griggs, assistant commissioner, Department of Children's Services; The Honorable Burton Glover, vice-president, Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges; and Linda O'Neal, executive director, TCCY.

Children's Coalition Platform

With leadership and staff support provided by TCCY, a confederation of individuals and organizations concerned about the quality of life for Tennessee children, youth, and families developed the Children's Coalition Platform in 1994. Although the coalition did not convene in fiscal year 1996-97, it met in October 1997.

The platform focuses on the need to develop and empower collaborative models that stress broad participation in planning, decision making, and implementation of programs and services. To date, the platform has been endorsed by 105 organizations representing 118,978 members, 115,279 individuals, 35,333 volunteers, 5,104 staff members, and 2,331 board members.

Committees, Task Forces, and Boards

A major strategy for advocacy and coordination is the participation of Commission staff on national, state, regional, and local committees; task forces; and boards. This involvement provides the opportunity for critical information sharing, networking, advocacy, and coordination.

National/Southeast Regional Organizations

TCCY staff served on seven national or Southeast regional committees, task forces, and boards. These groups focused on issues of juvenile justice, disability, education, health and human services, poverty, and specific services for women and girls. National and southeast regional committees, task forces, and boards with Commission representatives included the following:

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- Coalition for Juvenile Justice Board of Editors, Washington, D.C.;
- Coalition for Juvenile Justice Forum, Washington, D.C;
- Gender Specific Services Advisory Board, Nashville;
- National Center for Children in Poverty-Urban Child Care Project Task Force, Columbia University;
- Senator Bill Frist's National Disability Advisory Board, Washington D.C.;
- Southern Regional Education Board Health and Human Services Commission, Atlanta, and;
- United States Ombudsman Association; Children and Youth Services Ombudsman Committee, St. Paul, Minnesota.

State Organizations

Staff participated on a total of 31 statewide committees, task forces, and boards that addressed a broad range of issues, including health, teen pregnancy, child welfare, mental health, child care, family assistance, and broad-based children's needs. The statewide committees, task forces, or boards with Commission representatives included the following:

- Department of Health Child Fatality Review Team;
- Department of Health Maternal and Child Health Teen Pregnancy Prevention Committee;
- Department of Health State School Health Coordinating Committee;
- Department of Human Services Board of Review;
- Department of Human Services Out of Wedlock Birth Committee;
- Department of Human Services Child Care Advisory Committee; Quality Sub-Committee;
- Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Advisory Planning Committee;
- Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Planning Council Monitoring and Evaluation Committee; Children and Youth Committee;
- Developmental Disability Council Advisory Board; Legislative Committee;
- Disproportionate Minority Confinement Task Force;
- Families First Work Group;
- Gore Family Reunion-Tennessee Steering Committee;
- Governor's Community Prevention Initiative for Children Steering Committee;
- Information Systems Managers Group Steering Committee; Awards Committee;*
- Interdepartmental School Dropout Task Force;
- Interdepartmental Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Teen Parenting Programs Committee;
- March of Dimes Advisory Grants Review; Legislative Committee;
- Micro Technical Support Partnership Forum; Conference Planning Committee;
- Tennessee Action Coalition on Tobacco;
- TennCare Monitoring Work Group;

- TennCare Partners Monitoring Work Group;
- Tennesseans Against Paddling Advisory Board;
- Tennessee Association of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists, Legislative Committee;
- Tennessee Black Caucus of State Legislators; Annual Legislative Retreat Social Service Task Force;
- Tennessee Children and Youth Experiencing Dual-Sensory Impairments Advisory Council;
- Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare: Board of Directors; Immediate Past-President; Fund Raising/Silent Auction;* Conference Planning Committee; Fund Raising Committee;
- Tennessee Managed Care Network;
- Tennessee School Health Coalition;
- Tennessee Supreme Court Permanency Planning Commission; and,
- Tennessee Voices for Children; Board of Directors; Nominating Committee;* Program Committee; Annual Conference Committee.*

*TCCY staff served as chair.

Regional Organizations

Commission staff served on a total of 49 regional committees, task forces, or boards. At the regional level, representatives of the Commission participated on a number of groups in almost every area of the state. Additionally, staff also participated in many committees, task forces, and boards unique to individual regions. These regional groups addressed a range of issues, including child abuse, child care, education, Head Start, health, mental health, family assistance, foster care, adoptions, juvenile justice, substance abuse, and teen pregnancy. The committees, task forces, or boards with relatively consistent staff representation are:

- Department of Children's Services Regional Resource Management Group;
- Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Regional Mental Health Planning Council; and,
- Governor's Community Prevention Initiative for Children Regional Health Council.

Legislative Advocacy

During the 1997 session of the Tennessee General Assembly, the Commission prepared and distributed a *Legislative Report* briefly summarizing 436 bills and resolutions affecting children and families. Twelve weekly *Legislative Updates* that identified and tracked 71 bills were prepared. Nine *Legislative Alerts* explaining fast-moving, specific legislation and requesting action from child advocates were also disseminated. After adjournment, a *Legislative Summary* was prepared summarizing

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104 bills and resolutions dealing with children and families. Each of these documents was sent to more than 250 child advocates across the state.

The Commission reviewed the most significant legislation affecting children and families and took specific positions on 24 bills. Of these 24, the Commission supported 10 bills, four of which passed, while six were deferred to 1998. The Commission opposed 14 bills, of which two passed with amendments that substantially remedied the reasons TCCY opposed them. The other 12 bills opposed by TCCY were deferred to 1998.

In addition, TCCY took a general position of support on legislation that sought to increase responsibility and punishment for criminal gang members. Although most of the gang-related legislation floundered, an amended caption bill defining criminal gang offenses and setting enhanced punishment for such offenses passed.

TCCY position statements on legislation were developed and disseminated to legislators and regional councils and at Children's Advocacy Day. Commission staff monitored legislative committees, subcommittees, and floor sessions; actively advocated Commission positions; and participated in numerous public speaking engagements.

Commission members and staff had substantial involvement in two major legislative initiatives, the consideration of a Violent Adolescent Track and other juvenile justice legislation and the effort to raise the state's child-care reimbursement rate to the 80th percentile. The Administration decided to study the Violent Adolescent Track issue and report back with its findings at a later date. The child-care reimbursement rate was raised by 5 percent, to the 55th percentile, and HR 71 created a special committee to study the availability and pricing of child care.

Presentations and Displays

Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth staff made presentations and prepared displays on a variety of topics to a range of different groups and organizations. These presentations focused on Commission activities, advocacy, Commission priorities, and substantive issues. During fiscal year 1996-97, TCCY staff made 96 presentations, four national, 29 state, 63 local, to more than 4,400 persons.

Additionally, TCCY staff presented 20 displays at conferences, health fairs, college recruitment meetings, government days, and teen meetings. The purpose of these displays was to disseminate TCCY information and recruit members for the regional councils.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Tennessee Code Annotated Section 37-3-103(a)(4) establishes the following Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth responsibilities in the juvenile justice arena: "To implement the provisions of the juvenile justice and delinquency prevention act of 1974, as amended; and to distribute, consistent with the purpose of the Commission as set forth by Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-3-102(a), such funds as the General Assembly shall direct."

Each state participating in the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 1974 is required to have a state advisory group. In Tennessee, TCCY serves as the state advisory group responsible for the administration of funds received through the act.

In addition to the requirement to have a state advisory group, a state must maintain compliance with the act's four core requirements for continued participation. The core requirements are to:

1. Deinstitutionalize status offenders (DSO);
2. Remove children from adult jails;
3. Separate children from adult offenders; and,
4. Address minority overrepresentation in secure confinement.

To assure compliance with these mandates, TCCY conducts periodic on-site monitoring of all adult jails and lock-ups and all secure juvenile facilities in Tennessee, including juvenile detention centers, temporary holding resources, and training schools. Commission staff review records to determine the numbers of children detained and the circumstances of their detention. In fiscal year 1996-97 Commission staff conducted 871 monitoring visits at 399 sites as follows.

TCCY Juvenile Justice Monitoring Activities FY 1996-97

Number	Type of Program	Monitoring Activity Frequency	Total Number of Monitoring Activities
11	Court Appointed Special Advocate	Semi-Annually	22
95	State Supplement Grants	Quarterly	380
78	Federal Formula Grants	Quarterly	158*
46	Reimbursement Accounts	Annually	46
131	Jails and/or Lockups	Annually	131
15	Temporary Holding Facilities	Quarterly	60
3	Juvenile Detention Centers	Monthly	36
5	Juvenile Detention Centers	Quarterly	20
3	Juvenile Detention Centers	Semi-Annually	6
5	Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	Annually	5
7	Mental Health and Other Facilities	Annually	7
399			**871**

*TCCY fiscal year includes part of two federal grant years, and grants differed in number each year.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

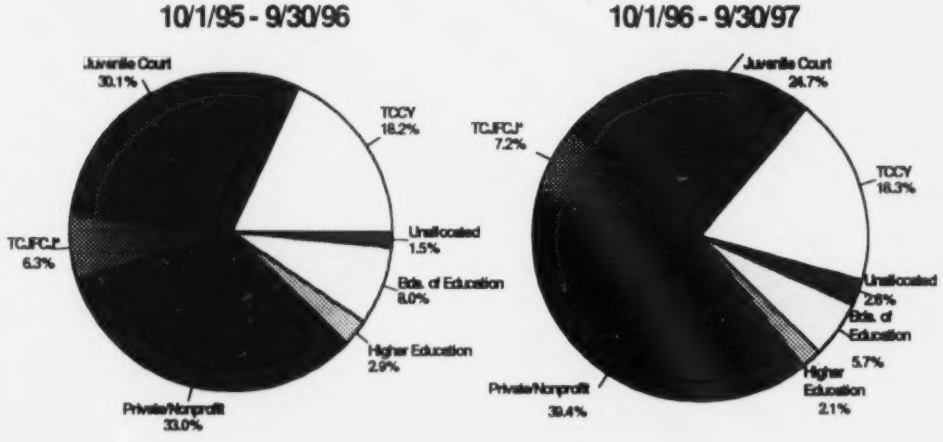
Another requirement for participation in the act is the annual submission of a three-year plan or plan update to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). In fiscal year 1996-97 the Commission submitted a new three-year plan that included an analysis of juvenile crime in Tennessee and an identification of program areas to receive priority for JJDP Act funds. A monitoring report summarizing violations of the act's mandates was also submitted to OJJDP.

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act has had a positive impact on Tennessee's juvenile justice system. The number of children in adult jails has been reduced from approximately 10,000 in 1980 to only 10 JJDP Act jail removal violations in the most recent monitoring period. In the rare instances juveniles were placed in adult facilities, they were inadequately separated from adult offenders only 21 times. This was down from almost 3,800 violations in 1977. Status offenders have largely been deinstitutionalized. In fiscal year 1996-97, only 391 status offenders were securely detained improperly, significantly less often than the more than 1,800 DSO violations in 1977.

Compliance with the minority-overrepresentation core requirement was maintained through the documentation of the level of disproportionate minority confinement (DMC) in various geographical areas of the state. TCCY staff also provided analysis of how DMC occurred at different decision points in the juvenile justice system. The statewide DMC task force formed in 1995 met twice during fiscal year 1996-97 to develop recommendations and interventions to reduce DMC.

Programs established with JJDP Act funds have resulted in significant increases in the availability of services for youth. Advocacy projects funded by the JJDP Act have prompted important systems changes for the benefit of Tennessee children and youth.

Distribution of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act Funds by TCCY



*Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

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Federal Formula Grants

Tennessee annually receives approximately $1.1 million in formula grant funds. The Commission awards grants to agencies for delinquency prevention and to ensure that youth who commit offenses receive appropriate placements and services.

Projects are funded on a year-to-year basis, generally for a maximum of three years. Usually a declining-share system is used, with 100 percent of an approved budget funded in the first year, 75 percent of the first year's budget amount funded in the second year, and 50 percent of the first year's budget amount funded in the third year.

There were 14,537 children served directly by programs funded in fiscal year 1996-97. (See pages 21 and 22 for a list of all federal formula grants funded).

TCCY staff provides grant-writing training and technical assistance to potential applicants for formula grants. In fiscal year 1996-97 approximately 300 people attended the training workshops conducted at seven locations across the state.

Title V Grants

The 1992 reauthorization of the JJDP Act included a new Title V to promote collaboration within communities to develop delinquency prevention strategies. Unlike formula grants, which may be awarded to individuals or single agencies, Title V funds may only be given to general units of local government. To be considered for funding, a community must demonstrate collaboration by the establishment of a multidisciplinary prevention policy board and the development of a three-year plan for delinquency prevention. To be eligible, a community must also be in compliance with the mandates of the JJDP Act.

Title V Grantee	FY 96-97 Award Amount
Davidson County Juvenile Court	$60,000
Franklin County Board of Education	$44,200
Hamilton County Government	$60,000
Madison County Juvenile Court Services	$60,000

In fiscal year 1996-97 TCCY continued its participation with the Tennessee departments of Health, Children's Services, and Education and the United Way in the Governor's Community Prevention Initiative for Children. Title V programs and those funded by the Department of Health through the Governor's Prevention Initiative share similar philosophies and goals. To receive these funds, community-wide collaboration to develop strategies to prevent negative behaviors and outcomes for children must be demonstrated.

TCCY staff had continued involvement at the state and local levels in the implementation of the Governor's Prevention Initiative. At the state level, staff helped

refine implementation strategies, facilitated the provision of risk and resource-assessment training, and participated in the grant-review process. Locally, staff served on the teams that developed community strategies and put the funding proposals together.

Challenge Activities

The 1992 reauthorization of the JJDP Act also added 10 Challenge Activities, A-J, to the programs funded by OJJDP. The purpose of the Challenge Activities is to provide states with incentives to develop, adopt, and improve policies in one of 10 specific areas.

The Challenge Activities program was funded for the first time in fiscal year 1995. Tennessee received $168,000 in fiscal year 1995 and $174,000 in fiscal year 1996 for Challenge Activities.

For each of the first two years of Challenge Activities funding, TCCY chose to participate in two activities. Challenge Activity A involves developing and adopting policies and programs to provide basic health, mental health, and appropriate education services, including special education, for youth in the juvenile justice system as specified in standards developed by the National Advisory Committee for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention prior to October 12, 1984. Funds set aside for Activity A were earmarked for the development of policies and procedures for the new Department of Children's Services.

Funds set aside for Activity F were used to start an Ombudsman office for children in out-of-home care or their families to have a mechanism to register complaints. TCCY elected to pursue the Ombudsman Project, seeing this as an opportunity to further its mission to improve the lives of children and families by strengthening the connection between service consumers and deliverers.

During fiscal year 1996-97 TCCY voted to continue funding for Challenge Activity F, the Ombudsman Program. TCCY also voted to fund Challenge Activity B, which involves developing and adapting policies and programs to provide access to counsel for all juveniles in the justice system to ensure that juveniles consult with counsel before waiving their right to counsel. Challenge Activity B will be implemented during fiscal year 1997-98.

Juvenile Justice Reimbursement Account

The Commission administers a combination of state and federal JJDP Act funds to provide financial assistance to counties for removing children from adult jails. These funds can be used to provide services to children who meet the criteria of TCA 37-1-114(c), which describes appropriate placement of children in secure facilities. Allowable services include, but are not limited to, the following programs: attendant care, emergency transportation, emergency shelter care and foster care, temporary

holding, and secure detention. In fiscal year 1996-97 TCCY contracted with 76 counties for use of reimbursement account funds, but only 46 actually requested reimbursement. Through the reimbursement account, 1,563 children received services in fiscal year 1996-97.

Each county accepting reimbursement account funds must develop and submit local rules and procedures for each service provided. Account funds can only be used to provide services to children who are taken into custody in a county that did not operate a secure detention facility in 1983. Funds are allocated to counties according to a weighted formula based on historical usage of the reimbursement account. Counties that participated in the reimbursement account with contract amounts are listed on pages 21 and 22.

State Juvenile Justice Supplements

The Commission administers state funding for improving juvenile court services. In fiscal year 1996-97, each county received $10,000. In counties with more than one juvenile court, each court is entitled to an equitable share of the county's allocation. To receive the funds, the juvenile court must have at least one part-time youth services officer who is appointed and supervised by the juvenile court judge. The youth services officer must meet identified educational requirements and receive training annually.

State juvenile justice funds cannot be used to pay salaries or expenses of juvenile court judges or for construction or remodeling of adult facilities. In fiscal year 1996-97, 80 counties used approximately 75 percent of the state supplement funds to pay the salaries of youth services officers or other court support staff. The next largest use of the funds was for training of court staff. Use of these funds is limited only by the imagination of the courts, as long as the expenditures improve juvenile court services and do not supplant local funds.

Court Appointed Special Advocates

The Commission administers state funds for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) programs in Tennessee. The purpose of the CASA programs is to recruit, train, and supervise court-approved volunteers. These volunteers advocate for the best interests of abused, neglected, or dependent children and other children who are placed out of home by the court. CASA volunteers provide assistance to the court by collecting background information, preparing reports for court, and participating in case reviews. The CASA volunteer works with the court and other agencies to ensure that a permanent placement is found as quickly as possible and to ensure those appropriate resources are made available to meet the needs of these children. In fiscal year 1996-97, state CASA funds provided services for more than 4,000 children in Anderson, Davidson, Hamblen, Hamilton, Knox, Shelby, Sullivan, Sumner, Washington, Williamson, and Wilson counties. Each county except Williamson received $15,000. Williamson received $10,000.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Transfer Hearings

Tennessee Code Annotated 33-3-401 et seq. establishes procedures for the involuntary transfer of youth between the departments of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (DMHMR) and Children's Services (DCS). A transfer hearing is scheduled before a five-person review panel composed of two representatives each from DMHMR and DCS and one representative from the Commission.

A transfer hearing is called when:

1. the transferee objects to a transfer;
2. there is a need for an emergency transfer; or,
3. a transferee is being returned.

During fiscal year 1996-97, 28 hearings were held. A transfer hearing is convened by the department requesting the transfer or, in an emergency situation, by the receiving facility.

Following is a profile of the youth involved in the hearings:

- 20 males and eight females
- 18 white and 10 African American; and,
- an age range of 14-18 years, with an average age of 16.

All of the transfer hearings were held at the Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute in Nashville.

Juvenile Justice Publications

TCCY contracts with the Michie Company to publish *The Tennessee Compilation of Selected Laws on Children, Youth, and Families.* Nearly 2,000 copies were distributed to juvenile courts, state government staff, and other children's services professionals.

Members of the Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges have asked for annual updates of the compilation when financially possible. The compilation was distributed to the judges at their winter meeting in 1996.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Federal Formula Grants Awarded By TCCY
Grant Period - 10/1/95 - 9/30/96
By Program Category

Grantee	Location	Amount
Compliance Monitoring		
TCCY	Nashville *	$40,000
Delinquency Prevention		
Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Tri-Cities	Kingsport	20,000
Boys and Girls Club of Cleveland	Cleveland	33,000
Boys and Girls Club of Pulaski	Pulaski	15,000
CASA of Memphis	Memphis	25,000
Child and Family Services	Knoxville	22,500
Dede Wallace Center	Gallatin	33,000
Henry County Schools	Paris	25,000
Memphis City Schools	Memphis	30,000
Metro Board of Education	Nashville	18,750
Rural Cumberland Resources	Crossville	12,616
Rutherford County Juvenile Court	Murfreesboro	33,000
Trenton Special School District	Trenton	18,750
Juvenile Court Services		
Cheatham County Juvenile Court	Ashland City	17,936
Claiborne County Juvenile Court	Tazewell	5,603
Grundy County Juvenile Court	Altamont	15,227
Hawkins County Juvenile Court	Rogersville	8,000
Houston County Juvenile Court	Erin	14,320
McMinn County Juvenile Court	Athens	20,000
Madison County Juvenile Court	Jackson	8,000
Marshall County Juvenile Court	Lewisburg	14,325
Maury County Juvenile Court	Columbia	17,000
Monroe County Juvenile Court	Madisonville	8,000
Overton County Juvenile Court	Livingston	20,000
Roane County Juvenile Court	Kingston	14,813
Robertson County Juvenile Court	Springfield	8,000
Sequatchie County Juvenile Court	Dunlap	20,000
Stewart County Juvenile Court	Dover	4,948
Minority Overrepresentation		
Boys Club of Memphis	Memphis	37,284
Chattanooga Area Urban League	Chattanooga	33,750
Children and Family Services	Covington	33,000
Columbia Cares, Inc.	Columbia	18,750
Nashville Center for Black Family Life	Nashville	33,000
Northwest YMCA	Nashville	30,000
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga	Chattanooga	33,000
West Tennessee AHEC	Memphis	33,000
Systems Improvement		
TCJFCJ (Information System)	Nashville *	22,169
TCJFCJ (Training)	Nashville *	50,000
Total Amount of Grants		$846,741

* - Grantee is located in Nashville, but scope of services is statewide.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

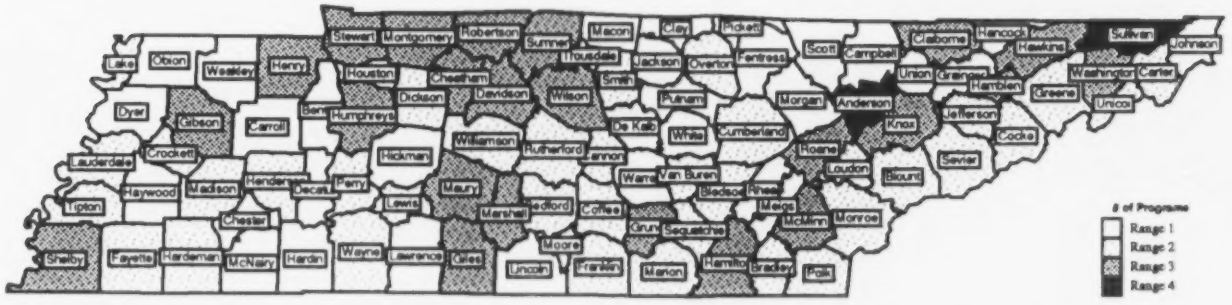
Federal Formula Grants Awarded By TCCY
Grant Period - 10/1/96 - 9/30/97
By Program Category

Grantee	Location	Amount
Compliance Monitoring		
TCCY	Nashville *	$42,000
Delinquency Prevention		
Anderson County Health Council	Clinton	30,000
Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Tri-Cities	Kingsport	15,000
Boys and Girls Club of Cleveland	Cleveland	24,750
Boys and Girls Club of Pulaski	Pulaski	10,000
CASA of Memphis	Memphis	18,750
Child and Family Services	Knoxville	15,000
Clinch Powell Resource	Rutledge	41,200
Community Mediation Center (VORP)	Crossville	21,828
Dede Wallace Center	Gallatin	24,750
Henry County Schools	Paris	18,750
Kids on the Block	Chattanooga	10,000
Memphis City Schools	Memphis	22,500
Metro Board of Education	Nashville	12,500
South Central Exchange Club	Columbia	32,201
Trenton Special School District	Trenton	12,500
Juvenile Court Services		
Cheatham County Juvenile Court	Ashland City	11,958
Claiborne County Juvenile Court	Tazewell	3,735
Grundy County Juvenile Court	Altamont	10,151
Houston County Juvenile Court	Erin	10,740
Humphreys County Juvenile Court	Waverly	12,550
McMinn County Juvenile Court	Athens	15,000
Marshall County Juvenile Court	Lewisburg	9,550
Montgomery County Juvenile Court	Clarksville	30,845
Overton County Juvenile Court	Livingston	15,000
Roane County Juvenile Court	Kingston	9,875
Rutherford County Juvenile Court	Murfreesboro	24,750
Sequatchie County Juvenile Court	Dunlap	15,000
Minority Overrepresentation		
Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Memphis	Memphis	26,352
Boys Club of Memphis	Memphis	25,000
Children and Family Services	Covington	24,750
Chattanooga Area Urban League	Chattanooga	22,500
Columbia Cares, Inc.	Columbia	12,500
Crittenton Services, Inc.	Nashville	45,000
Nashville Center for Black Family Life	Nashville	24,750
Northwest YMCA	Nashville	20,000
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga	Chattanooga	24,750
West Tennessee AHEC	Memphis	24,750
Systems Improvement		
TCJFCJ (Information System)	Nashville *	33,760
TCJFCJ (Training)	Nashville *	49,886
Total Amount of Grants		$854,881

* - Grantee is located in Nashville, but scope of services is statewide.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Juvenile Justice Funds Administered by TCCY, FY 96-97



County	Programs			
	SS	RA	JJDP	CASA
Anderson	x		x	x
Bedford	x			
Benton	x			
Bledsoe	x	x		
Blount	x			
Bradley	x			
Campbell	x			
Cannon	x	x		
Carroll	x			
Carter	x			
Cheatham	x			
Chester	x			
Claiborne	x	x		
Clay	x			
Cocke	x	x		
Coffee	x	x		
Crockett	x	x		
Cumberland	x		x	
Davidson	x		x	x
Decatur	x			
Dekalb	x			
Dickson	x	x		
Dyer	x			
Fayette	x	x		
Fentress	x			
Franklin	x		x	
Gibson	x	x	x	
Giles	x	x	x	
Grainger	x			
Greene	x	x		
Grundy	x	x	x	
Hamblen	x		x	x

County	Programs			
	SS	RA	JJDP	CASA
Hamilton	x		x	x
Hancock	x			
Hardeman	x	x		
Hardin	x			
Hawkins	x	x		
Haywood	x			
Henderson	x	x		
Henry	x	x		
Hickman	x			
Houston	x			
Humphreys	x	x		
Jackson	x			
Jefferson	x	x		
Johnson	x			
Knox	x		x	x
Lake	x	x		
Lauderdale	x	x		
Lawrence	x			
Lewis	x	x		
Lincoln	x			
Loudon	x	x		
McMinn	x		x	
McNairy	x			
Macon	x			
Madison	x		x	
Marion	x	x		
Marshall	x	x	x	
Maury	x	x	x	
Meigs	x			
Monroe	x		x	
Montgomery	x	x	x	
Moore	x			

County	Programs			
	SS	RA	JJDP	CASA
Morgan	x			
Obion	x			
Overton	x		x	
Perry	x	x		
Pickett	x			
Polk	x	x		
Putnam	x			
Rhea	x			
Roane	x	x	x	
Robertson	x	x	x	
Rutherford	x		x	
Scott	x			
Sequatchie	x		x	
Sevier	x	x		
Shelby	x		x	x
Smith	x	x		
Stewart	x	x	x	
Sullivan	x	x	x	x
Sumner	x		x	x
Tipton	x		x	
Trousdale	x	x		
Unicoi	x	x		
Union	x			
Van Buren	x	x		
Warren	x			
Washington	x		x	x
Wayne	x	x		
Weakley	x			
White	x			
Williamson	x			x
Wilson	x		x	x

SS - State Supplement
R.A. - Reimbursement Account
JJDP - Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (Federal Formula Grants and Title V Grants)
CASA - Court Appointed Special Advocates

23 BEST COPY AVAILABLE

EVALUATION

THE CHILDREN'S PROGRAM OUTCOME REVIEW TEAM

During fiscal year 1996-97 TCCY continued to implement the Children's Program Outcome Review Team (C-PORT) evaluation. This process evaluates the service delivery system designed for children and their families involved in state custody. The ultimate goal of C-PORT is to promote positive system change by providing qualitative (measuring quality) and quantitative (objective) information for a process of continuous improvement in the delivery of services to children and families.

The C-PORT evaluation collects and organizes essential information about the population of children served, the needs of the children and families, and the system's ability to adequately perform or function to meet the needs of the children and families it serves. The pertinent information was collected using a special instrument called a protocol. The protocol is a booklet containing a series of in-depth, structured interviews, and each interview contains a set of questions regarding the status of the child and family, the functions of the service delivery system, demographics, and TennCare implementation.

Structured interviews were conducted with the following: child (if age appropriate), parent(s), Assessment and Care Coordination Team (ACCT) worker(s), custodial department worker(s), caregiver(s) (foster parent or direct care staff in a group facility), court representative(s), teacher(s), and other relevant service providers. The case records were reviewed, and Plans of Care, social histories, and court orders were copied and reviewed. The majority of information was collected through the interview process.

The C-PORT reviews were conducted on a calendar-year basis as opposed to a fiscal year, began March 4, 1996, and involved 45 to 60 randomly selected cases in each of the 12 Community Health Agency's Assessment and Care Coordination Team regions. By December 6, 1996, 654 cases were reviewed. The data were then summarized and compared to the cases randomly selected for statewide analyses.

The statewide sample consisted of 352 child custody cases and was at expected levels of difference from the total sample because of the impact of regional variations. The sample size was the number of cases needed to be statistically significant at the 95 percent level of confidence statewide within plus or minus five percentage points and at the 85 percent level of confidence for the regional population within plus or minus 10 percentage points.

In 1996, 12 full-time C-PORT Case Reviewers determined the status of children and families being served under the Children's Plan. An additional 10 TCCY staff and 35 external reviewers representing a variety of departments and providers were trained to perform C-PORT intensive case reviews.

EVALUATION

External reviewers were staff from various direct service agencies, including private providers, juvenile courts, Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of Education (DOE), Department of Health (DOH), Assessment and Care Coordination Teams (ACCT), and Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy Studies. External reviewers were instrumental in disseminating information about the review process and outcome orientation, which consequently fostered system improvements internally. Two external-reviewer training workshops were held in Nashville on February 20-23 and June 18-21, 1996.

Reviewer training required intensive instruction and field-work preparation activities focusing on the administration of the C-PORT protocol and the procedures required for its use. In addition, basic techniques of interviewing were taught, as well as standards of evaluation and research principles. The full-time case reviewers also spent time in training sessions to review protocol revisions and system changes in order to adequately train external reviewers. A modified training was held on February 26, 1996, to train external reviewers on all revisions.

Necessary revisions and refinements were made to the C-PORT protocol and process. This is an integral part of the process. The evaluation suggests improvements in the delivery of services to children and families, and C-PORT continually improves the data-gathering process.

The Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL) and the Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS) provide supplemental assessments to the C-PORT review process. These assessment tools were administered during the review process. The CBCL was developed by Thomas M. Achenbach and provided a behavior-rating scale, which assessed behavior problems and social competencies of the children reviewed. The CAFAS was developed by Kay Hodges and was used to assess a child's psychosocial functioning. It has been adopted by several other states for evaluating state-served children.

The C-PORT evaluation documented the adequacy of the status of the child and family and how the system is functioning to meet the needs of the child by providing qualitative and quantitative data for continuous improvement in the delivery of services to children and families. The quantitative data were a result of an examination of 13 status indicators for the child and family and 15 essential system functions or capabilities in the context of how the system served one child at a time. The indicators for determining the status of the child and family and for determining the adequacy of service system functions were established by a Design Team representing the DOE, Finance and Administration (F&A), DOH, DHS, Mental Health and Mental Retardation (DMHMR), Youth Development (DYD); ACCT; Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (TCJFCJ); service providers; and the University of Tennessee College of Social Work (UTCSW). Its function was to develop the specifications for the C-PORT evaluation.

EVALUATION

The following 13 status indicators were examined for the child and family. Design team members agreed the indicators with asterisks must be found positive for an overall adequate finding regarding the status of the child and family. The indicators were:

1. safety of the child and community;*
2. emotional well-being;*
3. physical well-being;*
4. caregiver functioning;*
5. stable home;
6. permanence;
7. appropriateness of placement;
8. educational and vocational progress;
9. family unification;
10. independent living if 13 years of age or older;
11. family satisfaction;
12. child satisfaction; and,
13. overall status of child and family.

The reviewers evaluated the following 17 essential system functions or capabilities in the context of how the system served one child at a time. Once again, the functions or capabilities with the asterisks must have been found positive for an overall adequate finding for the system. The functions or capabilities were:

1. assessment of needs;*
2. long-term view for services;*
3. child participation;*
4. family participation;*
5. service plan design;*
6. service plan implementation;*
7. service coordination;*
8. monitoring change;*
9. advocacy;
10. early child and family intervention;
11. home and community resources;
12. placement resources;
13. supportive interventions for staying or returning home;
14. urgency response;
15. progress achieved-child;
16. progress achieved-family; and,
17. overall adequacy of services.

The quantitative results were then presented at an Exit Conference in each region. Overhead transparencies illustrating the data with charts and graphs and a qualitative report summarizing specific strengths, noteworthy accomplishments, and weakness of the system were used. The participants in the review process, such as direct service

staff; supervisory and management personnel; social counselors and case managers from ACCT, DHS, DYD, DMHMR, and DOE; placements; and the juvenile courts, attended.

These meetings were labeled Exit Conferences because they were scheduled following each review to report the data-gathering results. Research standards and guidelines specify the importance of reporting results to all research participants. The average attendance at a C-PORT Exit Conference per region was approximately 23 professionals. Statewide, approximately 276 professionals attended. Additional state agency administrative staff, legislators, and child advocates were also provided with copies of the C-PORT results. The first Children's Plan Outcome Review Team 1994 Evaluation Results report was published in February 1995. The 1995 C-PORT results were published in June 1996, and the 1996 results were published in August 1997.

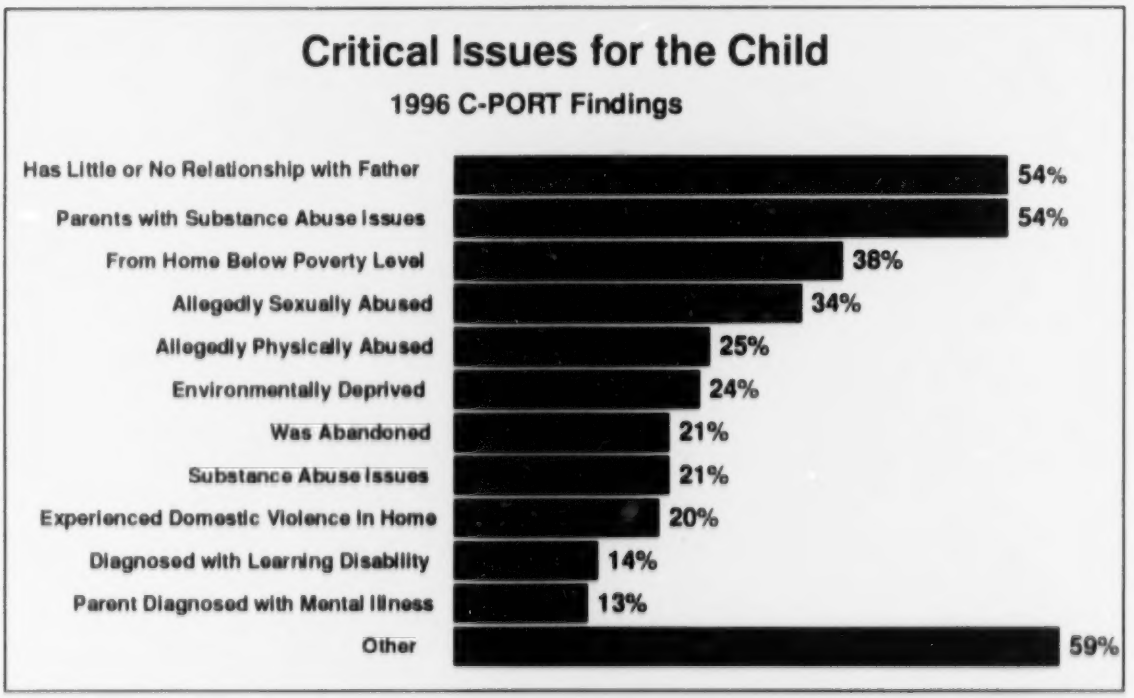
In 1996, C-PORT reported the following data on children in state custody:

- 47 percent of the total petitions were filed by DHS; parents were second at 11 percent, followed by law enforcement at 11 percent;
- 67 percent of the children were adjudicated dependent; 21 percent, delinquent; and 12 percent, unruly;
- 38 percent of the children were in custody primarily because of the child's behavior problems, and 28 percent, due to neglect by caretaker;
- 81 percent were in DHS custody; 18 percent were in DYD; 1 percent were in Tennessee Preparatory School (TPS);
- 40 percent were in a foster placement (including regular and therapeutic custodial department foster homes and regular and therapeutic contracted foster homes); 29 percent were in a group placement (any congregate living environment); 26 percent were with birth or adoptive parents or other relatives; 5 percent were on runaway status;
- 56 percent were 13 years or older; 21 percent were 6 to 12 years; 23 percent were newborns to age 5;
- The average length of stay for all cases reviewed was 753 days: 612 days for newborns through age 5; 805 days for children aged 6 to 12; and 790 days for children 13 years and older;
- 60 percent of the children were Caucasian; 35 percent African American; 5 percent were categorized as "other" (includes Asian American, Hispanic, and biracial);
- 57 percent were male; 43 percent were female; gender was divided evenly on adjudication of dependent/neglect; 52 percent male, 48 percent female for unruly adjudication; 82 percent male, 18 percent female for delinquent;
- 44 percent of the children came from single-parent families where the mother was the head of the household; and,
- 47 percent of the children reviewed had parents who were or had been incarcerated; 23 percent involved the father, 14 percent of the families involved the mother, and 10 percent involved both parents.

An analysis of the data showed two important findings. First, it appeared custody could have been avoided for 6 percent of the children reviewed if needed services had been provided at the time of custody. This is compared to 12 percent in 1995 and 16 percent

in 1994. Another important finding was that children remained in custody too long (22 percent in 1996, 26 percent in 1995, 19 percent in 1994) due to delays in release from custody, delays in termination of parental rights, and delays in the adoption process.

In 1996, children and family conditions that possibly contributed to the risk of entering or remaining in custody were categorized under "Critical Issues." These are issues characteristic of children and their families that influence the need for services.



The "other" category consisted of a range of issues, including children diagnosed Attention Deficit/Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder, children with deceased parents, children diagnosed with mental retardation (MR), children allegedly involved in gangs, and children who met criteria for serious emotional disorder (SED), etc. All of these issues contribute to the child's emotional and physical well-being and to the need for the system to address them in the form of supportive services for both the child and the family.

Strengths Identified Statewide in 1996 C-Port Findings

- Children were appropriate for custody.
- Many foster homes were effective in providing a stable, nurturing home-like environment.
- Children were placed in the least restrictive, most appropriate placement.
- Efforts were made to place siblings together when appropriate.
- Children had experienced only one placement or only one placement following assessment.

- Assessments were thorough, including social histories and psychological evaluations.
- The system was able to respond as was indicated by substantial increased activity between the time the cases were randomly selected for review and the actual review.

Weaknesses Identified Statewide in 1996 C-Port Findings

- Children remained in custody too long.
- There was a general lack of or inadequate legal representation provided for children and families.
- Families were not receiving needed services to facilitate reunification.
- Children were coming into custody after having received Home Ties services.
- Plans of care were insufficient due to inadequate individualized identification of services, especially for families.
- Service plan implementation was inadequate.

C-PORT Findings on the Status of the Child/Family Reported as Percents

	1996	1995	1994
Cases reviewed in an overall positive status	79	75	74
Safety of children positive	92	93	91
Children's physical well-being addressed	96	94	95
Children placed with adequate caregivers	91	92	90
The child's emotional well-being was not being addressed	18	22	22
Families were not receiving services to remain intact or to reunify with children	34	38	42
Families were not satisfied with services received	33	41	42

Families not receiving services appeared to be the greatest overall deficiency that would have a direct result in children returning home in a timely manner and maintaining a successful reunification. Families not receiving services had a mutual relationship with families not satisfied because they were not always receiving appropriate services in a timely manner at the level needed.

C-PORT Findings on Adequacy of Service System Functions Reported as Percents

	1996	1995	1994
Service system functioned adequately to meet needs of child/family	46	40	31
Assessment of needs of child/family	86	80	75
Plan of Care design	71	63	64
Service plan implementation	67	66	63
Service coordination	65	61	52
Monitoring/change	66	61	52
Supportive intervention for children to stay or return home	65	64	55
Progress achieved by family	56	50	80*

*Child and family progress were rated together in 1994, resulting in an inflated percentage for family progress.

EVALUATION

Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Findings Summary

Among the cases reviewed, the two domains with the most problems in functioning reported were role performance (the effectiveness with which the child fulfills the roles most relevant to his or her place in the community) and moods and emotions. Sixty-six percent of the children were rated as impaired in at least one of the five areas, with 53 percent receiving impaired ratings in two or more areas. Overall, the CAFAS total scores indicated the following treatment needs for the sample population of children and youth in state care: 39 percent needed supportive intervention, 24 percent, short-term treatment (up to six months), 17 percent, periodic treatment over a six- to 24-month period, and 19 percent, long-term treatment (one to five years). This indicates a significant increase in the proportion of children needing long-term care over the 11 percent in 1995.

Fifty-eight percent of the children had a formal mental health diagnosis reported, and, of these, many were also rated with moderate or severe impairment in psychosocial functioning. Thirty-five percent, significantly higher than in previous years, could be classified as seriously emotionally disturbed. A breakdown within the departments with seriously impaired youth is DMHMR (100 percent), DYD (53 percent), DHS (31 percent), and TPS (30 percent).

Child Behavior Check List Findings Summary

Based on symptoms of behavioral and emotional problems as reported by the child's current caretaker, 66 percent fell in the average range. However, one third of all children in custody displayed significant behavioral or emotional symptoms, with 24 percent considered within the clinical range. Clinical-level externalizing behavior problems (25 percent), i.e. aggression, were reported more often than internalizing problems (18 percent) such as significant depression or anxiety. These findings were highly correlated with those of the CAFAS.

1997 C-PORT Reviews

In 1997 the C-PORT protocol was revised, and full-time case reviewers were trained on the new protocol as well as system changes, including Families First. Two external-reviewer training workshops were held on February 18-21 and June 9-12, 1997. Twenty-one new external reviewers were trained to adequately implement the review process. In addition, three modified training workshops were conducted on February 28, March 26, and April 24. The modified training included TCCY staff and past external reviewers. The 1997 C-PORT reviews began March 3, 1997, and, as of June 30, 1997, 251 cases had been reviewed, encompassing five of the 12 ACCT regions.

EVALUATION

THE IMPACT STUDY

The Impact Study compares and contrasts the TennCare managed care system in Tennessee with the "traditional" Medicaid fee-for-service system in Mississippi, which is not part of a managed care system. This project is totally funded by the Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, a division of the Public Health Service, with no state tax dollars being used. In addition to the Tennessee/Mississippi study, there are four other sites studying mental health services to children: New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Oregon.

There are also five sites studying mental health services to adults and five sites studying substance abuse services to adults. TCCY collaborated with the Vanderbilt University Center for Mental Health Policy, Tennessee Voices for Children, the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, the Tennessee Alliance for the Mentally Ill, the Tennessee Association for Mental Health Organizations, Mississippi Families as Allies, and the Mississippi Department of Mental Health to develop a consumer-focused evaluation of mental health service delivery with protection of study participants' confidentiality. Craig Anne Heflinger, Ph.D., at Vanderbilt is the principal investigator for the study.

TCCY is responsible for recruiting Tennessee families to participate in the study. Using a structured-interview protocol, TCCY staff collects information regarding health status, mental health symptoms, substance use, psychosocial functioning, and quality of life from each family at three points in time over a one-year period. TCCY staff is responsible for conducting in-depth case reviews of families of 150 severely emotionally disturbed children in Tennessee. TCCY staff is also responsible for conducting in-depth case reviews of families of 36 severely emotionally disturbed children in Mississippi. In conjunction with Vanderbilt University, TCCY staff will analyze data that has been collected and report findings.

The TCCY Impact Study Director started on April 1, 1997, and the Project Secretary and one Children's Program Coordinator started on June 16, 1997. Interviewing began in mid-June. Data collection ends spring 1999, and the funding period ends September 30, 1999. Early in fiscal year 1997-98, the federal government approved five additional sites for studying substance abuse services to children and youth. The Vanderbilt Center for Mental Health Policy was approved as one of the sites to extend the Tennessee and Mississippi study to include the evaluation of substance abuse services. TCCY will be part of this effort.

REGIONAL COUNCILS

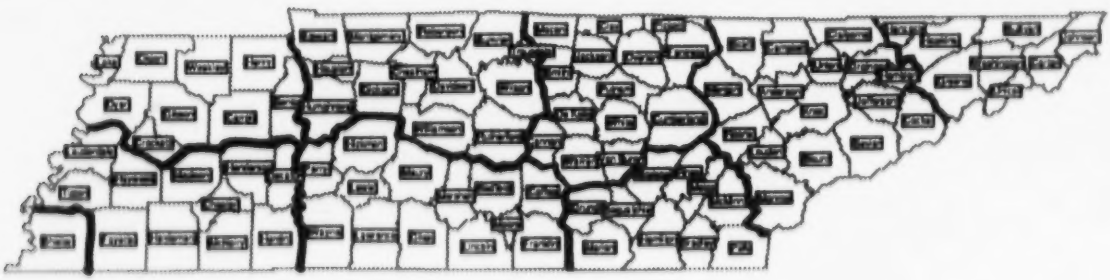
Tennessee Code Annotated 37-3-106 requires the Commission on Children and Youth to organize a regional council on children and youth in each of the state's nine developmental districts. It establishes the councils as the ongoing communication link between the Commission and regional and local areas in Tennessee. The statute requires one locally based staff person for each regional council and identifies the following duties of the councils:

- To provide for mutual exchange of information and networking among service providers, advocates, and elected officials;
- To educate council members, officials, others involved in services for children and youth, and the general public concerning the needs and problems of children and youth in the regional and the state;
- To coordinate regional and local efforts between public and private service providers to enhance services for children and youth;
- To advocate for legislation, policies, and programs at the local and regional level to promote and protect the health, well-being, and development of children and youth; and,
- To collect, compile, and distribute data and to make recommendations of the needs and problems of children and youth.

In fiscal year 1996-97, more than 2,050 community representatives and professionals were members of the nine regional councils. The information below presents the nine regions and the regional coordinators. Summary information about each council is presented on the following pages.

TCCY Regional Councils and the Coordinators

Debbie Anderson **Northwest Council**	**Scott Ridgway** **Mid-Cumberland Council**	**Kathy Daniels** **Upper Cumberland**	**Robert Smith** **East Tennessee**	**Diane Wise** **Northeast Council**



Juanita White **Memphis/Shelby County**	**Judy Matthews** **Southwest Council**	**Elaine Williams** **South Central Council**	**Marilyn Davis** **Southeast Council**

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REGIONAL COUNCILS

NORTHEAST TENNESSEE COUNCIL ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH
207 North Boone Street, Suite 800
Johnson City, Tennessee 37604
Phone: (423) 928-0224 FAX: (423) 928-5209
Coordinator: Diane Wise

NORTHEAST TENNESSEE COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP
The Northeast Council has 226 members representing the eight counties in the region: Carter, Greene, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington.

NORTHEAST TENNESSEE COUNCIL OFFICERS

President	Ben Proffitt, 1st Tennessee Human Resource Agency
Past President	Terry Henson, Department of Health
Vice President	Betsey Brown, Department of Children's Services
President Elect	Wilhelmina Williams, Community Services Agency
Secretary	Beverly Lovegrove, Department of Health
Treasurer	Linda Hoit, Johnson City Housing Authority

NORTHEAST TENNESSEE COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS

Legislative	Marian Hensley, Holston Home for Children
Juvenile Justice	Nancy Helsabeck, Department of Children's Services
Child Abuse and Neglect	Jane Garrett, Appalachian Girl Scout Council
Adolescent Health	Judith Holden, Department of Health
Coalition for Preschool	Sandra Crawford, Frontier Health - Traces
Coalition for Young Child	Traci Street, Washington County Schools
Membership/Nominating	Pam Harr, Community Services Agency - ACCT
Hospitality/Public Relations	Beulah Ferguson, 1st Tennessee Development District

NORTHEAST TENNESSEE COUNCIL MEETINGS AND TOPICS

September 18, 1996	An Overview of the Department of Children's Services
November 20, 1996	An Overview of Policy and Procedure of Families First
February 12, 1997	The Ombudsman Program in Tennessee
May 21, 1997	Frontier Health, The Consolidation of Area Mental Health Programs

NORTHEAST TENNESSEE COUNCIL SPECIAL EVENTS

October 23, 1996	"Meet Your Candidates" Brunch
October 30, 1996	"Parenting Skills Training" for Trainers
November 14, 1996	"Legislation and Advocacy" Training
February 28, 1997	"Total Teen Wellness"
March 11, 1997	Children's Advocacy Day
April 4, 1997	"Building Self Esteem in Children" Seminar
April 1-30, 1997	"Child Abuse Prevention Month" Activities - City Government Proclamations, Civic Presentations, Distribution of Flyers, and Blue Ribbons

NORTHEAST TENNESSEE COUNCIL AWARD
The 1996-97 Northeast Tennessee Council's Child Advocacy Award was presented to Diane Wise, Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth.

REGIONAL COUNCILS

EAST TENNESSEE REGIONAL COUNCIL ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH
531 Henley Street, Seventh Floor
Knoxville, TN 37902
Phone: (423) 594-6658 FAX: (423) 594-6658
Coordinator: Robert E. Smith

EAST TENNESSEE REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP
The East Tennessee Council on Children and Youth has 335 members representing the 16 counties of the East Tennessee Region: Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, Monroe, Morgan, Roane, Scott, Sevier, and Union.

EAST TENNESSEE COUNCIL OFFICERS

President	Mike Harkleroad, Department of Children's Services
President Elect	David Strauss, East Tennessee Community Services Agency
Secretary	Regina Surber, Knox Area Association for the Education of Young Children
Treasurer	Mark Cotter, Education Assistance Program, UT Knoxville

EAST TENNESSEE REGIONAL MEETINGS

September 4, 1996	Organizational Meeting/Goal Setting for fiscal year 1996-97
October 2, 1996	Department of Children's Services Update, Commissioner George Hattaway
November 13, 1996	Mini-Seminar: Governor's Prevention Initiative - Campbell County
December 4, 1996	Public Officials Breakfast
January 8, 1997	Networking and Brainstorming Meeting
February 5, 1997	ChildWatch Presentation; TCCY Ombudsman Program
March 5, 1997	Children's Advocacy Day Prep/Legislative Update
April 9, 1997	Mini-Seminar: More Governor's Prevention Initiative - Blount County
May 7, 1997	Awards Presentation/Installation of New Officers

EAST TENNESSEE COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Executive	Mike Harkleroad, Department of Children's Services
Nominating	Tannis Duncan, Sevier County Schools
Membership/Public Information	Brenda Trotter, Associated Catholic Charities, Columbus Home
Legislative/Public Policy	Kathy Bryant, Tennessee Infants-Parents Service
Juvenile Justice/Community Education	David Strauss, East Tennessee Community Services Agency

EAST TENNESSEE COUNCIL SPECIAL EVENTS

March 11, 1997	TCCY Children's Advocacy Day

REGIONAL COUNCILS

SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE COUNCIL ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH
540 McCallie Avenue, Suite 643
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402
Phone: (423) 634-6210 FAX: (423) 634-3094
Coordinator: Marilyn Davis

SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP
The Southeast Council has 227 members representing the 10 counties in the region: Bledsoe, Bradley, Grundy, Hamilton, McMinn, Marion, Meigs, Polk, Rhea, and Sequatchie.

SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE COUNCIL OFFICERS

President	Pamela Winters Colbert, Girl's Inc.
Vice-President	Debbie Garvich, Hamilton County Social Services
Secretary	Sandra Falagan, Hiwassee Mental Health Center
Treasurer	Linda Hartbarger, Tennessee Early Intervention System, UT Chattanooga

HIWASSEE COUNCIL OFFICERS

President	Tracy Boyette, Hiwassee Mental Health Center
Vice-President	Mary Lou Miller, Bradley County Schools
Secretary	James Foster, Private Practice, Counselor
Legislative Chair	Shirley DeWitt, Polk County Schools
Public Relations	Walter White, Bachman Memorial Home
Nominations/Awards	Jason Palmer, Tennessee Early Intervention System, UT-C

SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS

Legislative	Trudy Hughes, Parents Are First Teachers, and Jason Palmer, Tennessee Early Intervention System
Public Relations	Cheryl McClatchey, HealthSource
Hospitality	Rowe Royer, Cumberland Hall
Nominations/Awards	Rick Carrigan, Department of Children's Services
Juvenile Justice/Youth Issues	Cheryl Gannon, Family & Children's Services, and Larry Rhodes, McMinn Youth Affairs

SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE COUNCIL MEETINGS AND TOPICS

September 18, 1996	Kids Count and Department Updates
December 12, 1996	Children & Families First Forum
January 22, 1997	Ombudsman Program and Disproportionate Minority Confinement
March 20, 1997	Child and Family Center, Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy Studies
May 20, 1997	Awards Luncheon, Election of New Officers, Officer Recognition

SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE COUNCIL SPECIAL EVENTS

December 3, 1996	Legislative Advocacy Training
January 28, 1997	Legislative Reception/Open House, Eastside Community Center "One Stop Shop"
January 31, 1997	Met with Children & Family Affairs Committee Chair Rep. Brenda Turner
March 11, 1997	Children's Advocacy Day
April 11, 1997	Legislative Reception/Open House, Regional Skills Center, Marion County

SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE COUNCIL AWARDS
The 1996-97 Advocacy Award was presented to Shelia Smith, director of The Family Center, Marion County Department of Education. The 1996-97 Outstanding Service Award was presented to Beverly Jones McKeldin, director of Child Care Services, Chattanooga Department of Human Services.

HIWASSEE COUNCIL AWARDS
The 1996-97 Outstanding Service Award was presented to Graeme Sieber, executive director of Bachman Home.

REGIONAL COUNCILS

UPPER CUMBERLAND COUNCIL ON CHILDREN & YOUTH
435 Gould Drive
Cookeville, Tennessee 38506-4194
Phone: (615) 432-4494 FAX: (615) 432-6995
Coordinator: Kathy Daniels

UPPER CUMBERLAND COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:
The Upper Cumberland Council has 150 members representing the 14 counties in the region: Cannon, Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Fentress, Jackson, Macon, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Smith, Van Buren, Warren, and White.

UPPER CUMBERLAND COUNCIL OFFICERS

President	Kacie Fitzpatrick, coordinator, Healthy Start, Holland J. Stephens Child Abuse Prevention Center
Vice President	Shelly Painter, Endeavor Alcohol and Drug Treatment Program, Plateau Mental Health
Secretary	Shirley McDonald, counselor, REACH Academy
Treasurer	Chris Hobson, Putnam County Family Resource Center, Jere Whitson Elementary School

UPPER CUMBERLAND COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS

Executive	Council Officers and Chairpersons
Legislative	Linda Mix, prevention coordinator
Youth Issues	Kathy Boles, Department of Correction
Prevention	Connie Wallace, Family Day Care Home Registration
Membership	Janell Clark, Plateau Mental Health
Nominating	Kacie Fitzpatrick, coordinator, Healthy Start, Holland J. Stephens Child Abuse Prevention Center

UPPER CUMBERLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS AND TOPICS

September 3, 1996	Department of Children's Services
October 8, 1996	Families First Welfare Reform
November 4, 1996	Parent Child/Mediation Plus
December 2, 1996	Cumberland County "TEEN TALK" Panel
January 7, 1997	Behavior Management/Young Children
February 4, 1997	"Teens Need Training" Program
March 4, 1997	"Gang Training"
April 4,1997	Hollard J. Stephens Child Abuse Prevention Center
May 6, 1997	Prevention Initiative

UPPER CUMBERLAND COUNCIL SPECIAL EVENTS

September 18,1996	Legislative Luncheon
November 11, 1996	Right to Counsel/Juvenile Court Procedures Training
November 12, 1996	Legislative Luncheon
January 29, 1997	Legislative Luncheon
March 11, 1997	Children's Advocacy Day
March 4, 1997	Grant-Writing Training

UPPER CUMBERLAND COUNCIL AWARD
The 1996-97 Advocate of the Year Award was presented to Lt. Danny Holmes, director of the Putnam County Juvenile Detention Center.

REGIONAL COUNCILS

MID-CUMBERLAND COUNCIL ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH
710 James Robertson Parkway, Ninth Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0800
Phone: (615) 532-1579 FAX: (615) 741-5956
Coordinator: Scott Ridgway

MID-CUMBERLAND COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP
The Mid-Cumberland Council has 401 members representing 13 counties in the region: Cheatham, Davidson, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys, Montgomery, Robertson, Rutherford, Stewart, Sumner, Trousdale, Williamson, and Wilson.

MID-CUMBERLAND COUNCIL OFFICERS

President	Jay Albertia, Progressive Directions, Inc.
Past President	Pam Stanley, Temporary Residency for Adolescents in Crisis (TRAC), Inc.
Vice President	Frank Mix, Mid-Cumberland Community Services Agency
Secretary	Donna Kraebel, Crittenton Services, Inc
Treasurer	Brenda West, Department of Children's Services

MID-CUMBERLAND COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS

Child and Adolescent Health	Kelley Binkley, TRAC, Inc.
Child Welfare	Patti Orten, Tennessee Voices for Children
Juvenile Justice	Susan Gilliam, TCCY, Severely Emotionally Disturbed (SED) Impact Study
Legislative	Rainey Gibson, Mid-Cumberland Community Services Agency

MID-CUMBERLAND COUNCIL MEETINGS AND TOPICS

July 19, 1996	"What's New?" Updates on Department of Children's Services, Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, and TennCare Partners Program/BHO's
March 7, 1997	Legislative Training
February 7, 1997	"Disproportionate Minority Confinement"

MID-CUMBERLAND COUNCIL SPECIAL EVENTS

March 10, 1997	Grant Writing Training
March 12, 1997	Children's Advocacy Day
April 25, 1997	Mid-Cumberland West Networking Conference
May 30, 1997	Mid-Cumberland East Networking Conference

MID-CUMBERLAND COUNCIL AWARD
The 1996-97 Child Advocate of the Year Award was presented to Pam Stanley, executive director of TRAC, Inc.

REGIONAL COUNCILS

SOUTH CENTRAL TENNESSEE REGIONAL COUNCIL ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH
815 South Main Street
P.O. Box 397
Columbia, Tennessee 38402-0397
Phone: (931) 388-1053 or 381-2040 FAX: (931) 381-2053
Coordinator: Francis Elaine Williams

SOUTH CENTRAL TENNESSEE COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP
The South Central Tennessee Council has 282 members representing the 13 counties in the region: Bedford, Coffee, Franklin, Giles, Hickman, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Marshall, Maury, Moore, Perry, and Wayne.

SOUTH CENTRAL TENNESSEE COUNCIL OFFICERS

President	Gerald Geho, Lawrence County Cares Program
Vice-President	Nedra Dailey, Giles County Juvenile Court
Secretary/Treasurer	Stephanie Hancock, Stephanie's Child Care
Treasurer's Assistant	Verna Brown, parent

SOUTH CENTRAL TENNESSEE COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS

Executive/Juvenile Justice	Gerald Geho, Lawrence County Cares Program
CARE Committee	Nedra Dailey, Giles County Juvenile Court
Legislative	Sue Stephenson, Columbia Cares
Nominating/Membership	Sheila Anderson, South Central Human Resource Agency

SOUTH CENTRAL TENNESSEE COUNCIL MEETINGS AND TOPICS

September 20, 1996	Ombudsman Program and HIV Disease and AIDS
November 4, 1996	Introduction of "SUCCESS is a Thinking Skill"
January 23, 1997	Children in State Custody - A Look at South Central and The State of the Child Report for South Central
April 11, 1997	"SUCCESS Is A Thinking Skill" Training

SOUTH CENTRAL TENNESSEE SPECIAL EVENTS

August 12-13, 1996	Reality Presentation
October, 1996	Reality Presentation at the four Tennessee meetings scheduled by the State Department of Education.
October 15-November 21, 1997	County Orientation meetings
February 22, 1997	Teen Summit '97 presented by Columbia Cares and co-sponsored by the council
March 11, 1997	Children's Advocacy Day
March 22, 1997	Mini Teen Institute

REGIONAL COUNCILS

NORTHWEST REGIONAL COUNCIL ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH
P.O. Box 505
Dresden, Tennessee 38225
Phone: (901) 364-5000 Fax: (901) 364-5000
Coordinator: Debbie Anderson

NORTHWEST COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP
The Northwest Council has 191 members representing the nine counties in this region: Benton, Carroll, Crockett, Dyer, Gibson, Henry, Lake, Obion, and Weakley.

NORTHWEST COUNCIL OFFICERS

President	Martha Smith, Family Resource Center
Vice President	Stephenie Rogers, Pathways of West Tennessee
Secretary	Bret Brooks, Community Services Agency
Treasurer	Troy Jones, Weakley County Juvenile Court

NORTHWEST COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS

Education/Prevention	Joetta Yarbro, Family Resource Center and Rhonda Shanklin, Healthy Start Program, UT Martin
Juvenile Justice	Allen Webb, Benton County Juvenile Court and Kris Moore, Youth Villages
Legislative	Dwayne Hamm, Henry County Juvenile Court and Tina Williams, Community Services Agency
Membership	Tom McWherter, Community Services Agency, and Toni Murphy, Department of Children's Services
Program	Stephenie Rogers, Pathways of West Tennessee and Keri Maddox, Weakley County Department of Education

NORTHWEST COUNCIL MEETINGS AND TOPICS

September 27, 1996	What's a BHO? Behavioral Health Organizations Overview
November 15, 1996	Business Meeting and Joint Conference with Southwest Council -Theme: "Save Our Children"
February 27, 1997	Quarterly Council Meeting sponsored by Juvenile Justice and Legislative Committees. Topics: Gangs & The Occult; School Discipline & Juvenile Court; Missing Children; Minority Overrepresentation; Ombudsman Program
June 20, 1997	Using Volunteers and Mentoring Programs

NORTHWEST COUNCIL SPECIAL EVENTS

February 27, 1997	Children's Advocacy Day Training
March 11, 1997	Children's Advocacy Day
March 24, 1997	Grant-Writing Training
June 20, 1997	Outstanding Advocate of the Year Awards Luncheon

NORTHWEST COUNCIL AWARDS
The 1997 Group Recognition Awards were presented to area police departments with youth prevention and intervention programs. The 1997 Professional Advocate of the Year was presented to Lou Carter, a retired teacher from Henry County Board of Education, Paris, Tennessee. The 1997 Outstanding Advocate of the Year was presented to Stan Cavness, captain of the Youth Guidance Division, Dyersburg Police Department. Judge Sam Nailling Jr. and Mary Kate Ridgeway were presented Certificates of Appreciation for their service as Commission members from the Northwest Region.

REGIONAL COUNCILS

SOUTHWEST COUNCIL ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH
225 Dr. Martin Luther King Drive Box 13
Jackson, TN 38301
Phone: (901) 423-6545 Fax: (901) 423-6545 *51
Coordinator: Judy J. Matthews

SOUTHWEST COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP
The Southwest Council has 165 paid members representing 11 counties in region: Chester, Decatur, Fayette, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Lauderdale, McNairy, Madison, and Tipton.

SOUTHWEST COUNCIL OFFICERS

Chairperson	Margaret Knight, Southwest CSA, Jackson
Vice-Chairperson	Brian King, West Tennessee Children's Home, Henderson
Secretary	Betty Neilson, Henderson UT Extension Service, Lexington
Treasurer	Bobbie Coley, Youth Town of Tennessee, Pinson

SOUTHWEST COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS

Bylaws	June Perrigan, Tennessee Department of Education
Juvenile Justice	Barbara Dooley, Madison County Juvenile Court
Legislative	Imogene Harris, Department of Health
Membership	Delaine Bottoms, Carl Perkins Child Abuse Center
Public Relations	Karen Smith, Southwest CSA

SOUTHWEST COUNCIL MEETINGS AND TOPICS

August 9, 1997	Working With HIV Positive Families
November 15, 1996	Save Our Children
February 27, 1997	Teenage Violence and Crime
June 5-6, 1997	Preparing for the 21st Century: Strategies to Help Youth & Families

SOUTHWEST COUNCIL SPECIAL EVENTS

March 11, 1997	Children's Advocacy Days
March 24, 1997	Grant-Writing Training

REGIONAL COUNCILS

MEMPHIS/SHELBY COUNTY CHILDREN AND YOUTH COUNCIL
170 N. Main Street - 9th Floor
Memphis, Tennessee 38103
Phone: (901)-543-7657 FAX: (901)-543-6462
Coordinator: Juanita White

MEMPHIS/SHELBY COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP
The Memphis/Shelby County Children and Youth Council has 240 members representing Memphis and Shelby County.

MEMPHIS/SHELBY COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICERS

President	Joni Elrod, St. Joseph Hospital Children and Youth Center
President Elect	Damone Virgilio, Gaston Park Library
Secretary	Valencia Russell, Porter Leath Children's Center
Treasurer	Floyd Shivers, Porter Leath Children's Center

MEMPHIS/SHELBY COUNTY COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND CHAIRS

Executive	Joni Elrod, St. Joseph Hospital Children and Youth Center
Legislative	Bobbie Thompson, Department of Human Services
Youth & Juvenile Justice	Gwendolyn Harbert, Children's Community Services Agency
Prevention	Donna Downen, UT Extension Service

MEMPHIS/SHELBY COUNTY COUNCIL MEETINGS AND TOPICS

August 21, 1996	Juvenile Justice Forum-Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act and Its Ramifications For Tennessee and a Showcase of JJDP Grant Funded Programs
November 26, 1996	TennCare Partners Program
February 26, 1997	Governor's Community Prevention Initiative for Children
May 21, 1997	Families First

MEMPHIS/SHELBY COUNTY COUNCIL SPECIAL EVENTS

December 5 1996	Annual Legislative Reception and Christmas Party
March 27, 1997	Annual Spring Conference "Focus: Are We Responsible For Children?"
April 4, 1997	Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Workshop

MEMPHIS/SHELBY COUNTY COUNCIL AWARD
The first Mary F. Todd Advocacy Award was presented to Mary F. Todd. The award was established in honor of Ms. Todd, who is a council member and past chair of the Council Legislative Committee and who recently retired as director of the University of Tennessee Clinic for Exceptional Children.

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

Kids Count Project Publications

The Tennessee Kids Count Project is part of a national effort to track the status of children in the United States. Kids Count seeks to enrich local, state, and national discussions concerning ways to secure better futures for all children by providing policymakers and citizens with benchmarks of child well-being. Kids Count publications released in fiscal year 1996-97 were *Kids Count: The State of the Child in Tennessee* and the national *Kids Count Data Book: State Profiles of Child Well-Being*.

Kids Count: The State of the Child in Tennessee

At the state level, the principal activity of the Tennessee Kids Count Project is the publication and dissemination of the annual *Kids Count: The State of the Child in Tennessee*, which uses the best available data to measure the educational, socioeconomic, and physical well-being of children in the state. The report also fulfills TCCY's mandate according to Tennessee Code Annotated 37-3-103 (a)(1)(F) to annually publish "a comprehensive report on the status of children and youth in Tennessee."

This 124-page report published in fiscal year 1996-97 presented county-by-county information on statistical indicators on the well-being of Tennessee's children from birth to age 18. The report also included state-level information for which county-level data are not available every year. These topics include children living in poverty, children from single-parent families, child care, drug use, HIV and AIDS, and school violence. *The State of the Child* reported county-by-county data on the following 17 statistical indicators of child well-being:

- Per capita income;
- Percent of the population receiving food stamps;
- Percent of children receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children;
- Percent of children participating in the national School Lunch Program;
- Indicated child abuse and neglect rate;
- Percent of children referred to juvenile courts;
- Rate of children in state care per 1,000;
- Percent of total population enrolled in TennCare;
- Percent of births lacking adequate prenatal care;
- Percent of low-birth-weight babies;
- Infant mortality rate;
- Child death rate;
- Teen pregnancy rate;
- Sexually transmitted disease rate;
- Teen violent death rate;
- Percent of high school dropouts; and,
- Percent of students receiving special education.

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

The data sources for *The State of the Child* were the Tennessee Department of Human Services, Tennessee Department of Health, TennCare Bureau, Tennessee Department of Education, Tennessee Department of Children's Services, Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Tennessee State Data Center, other state agencies, and various state and national reports.

Twenty-six graphics were used to illustrate the statistical information. A narrative on each indicator was also presented. Information on the narratives was gathered from various sources ranging from medical journal articles on infant mortality to surveys and other research on adolescent sexuality. *The State of the Child* was widely disseminated in Tennessee and, to a limited extent, nationally.

National Kids Count Data Book

At the national level, the principal activity of the Kids Count Project is the publication of the annual *Kids Count Data Book*, which uses the best available data to measure the educational, social, economic, and physical well-being of children. Each of the states and the District of Columbia are ranked on 10 indicators of child well-being. The Tennessee Kids Count Project works with the Casey Foundation and Podesta Associates, the Casey Foundation's public relations firm, to disseminate and publicize the findings of the Data Book.

The Advocate Newsletter

TCCY publishes *The Advocate*, a newsletter on children's issues, to inform children's advocates, children's service providers, legislators, policy makers, and regional council members about timely children's issues. During fiscal year 1996-97, TCCY released two issues of *The Advocate*.

The first 1996-97 issue of *The Advocate* was released in July 1996 and focused on the reauthorization of the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act. The 12-page issue featured a story by TCCY Executive Director Linda O'Neal based on her testimony to the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Youth Violence in February 1996. A position paper from the Coalition for Juvenile Justice and the background on the position paper were included. Other articles in the newsletter were about projects funded under the JJDP Act, TCCY's efforts regarding Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, TCCY's Ombudsman Program, and policies and procedures development for the Tennessee Department of Children's Services.

The second issue of *The Advocate* was released in June 1997 and reported the evaluation summary of the 1996 Children's Program Outcome Review Team (C-PORT). Under the direction of TCCY, C-PORT completed its third year of evaluating children's services and continues to gather, analyze, and report data to improve implementation of service delivery to children and families involved in state custody. The C-PORT evaluation summary reported essential information about the population of children

served, needs of the children and families, and the system's ability to adequately perform functions to meet the needs of the children and families it serves.

News Media Contacts

The Tennessee Kids Count Project's data were provided on the Internet. The web site of Nashville's local NBC television affiliate provided *The State of the Child* data to Internet users (www.wsmv.com)

Other accomplishments in 1997 for the Tennessee Kids Count Project involve the increased media interest in the project. The timing of the releases of the 1997 *Kids Count Data Book* and *The State of the Child in Tennessee* report one month apart was a critical factor in building momentum for media coverage. It created a tie-in with both publications that produced more media coverage than ever before.

Stories on *Kids Count: The State of the Child in Tennessee* and the national *Kids Count Data Book* were broadcast on numerous radio and television stations across the state. More than 150 Tennessee newspapers ran stories in fiscal year 1996-97 on Kids Count publications compared to 70 newspaper stories in fiscal year 1995-96. Both large and small papers ran several-part articles on the reports expanding Kids Count coverage to days or weeks. Several newspapers also ran editorials based on information in the Kids Count publications.

The number of interviews TCCY staff gave on Kids Count reports increased dramatically in 1996 compared to the past. TCCY staff gave 100 media interviews on *The State of the Child* report in fiscal year 1996-97 compared to only 60 in fiscal year 1995-96. Additionally, about 35 interviews were given by TCCY staff regarding the release of the national *Kids Count Data Book* in fiscal year 1996-97 compared to only 10 interviews in fiscal year 1995-96.

In addition to the Kids Count Project news coverage, TCCY staff gave about 30 news interviews during fiscal year 1996-97. Approximately 35 newspaper stories statewide mentioned TCCY during fiscal year 1996-97, including publicity regional coordinators received in their regions for holding or participating in various events and as local authorities on children's issues.

OMBUDSMAN

The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth's Ombudsman for Children and Families serves as a neutral reviewer of questions and concerns regarding state child custody services. As a neutral reviewer, the Ombudsman is understood to be an advocate for the child, family, and service system when appropriate. It should be underscored that the Ombudsman will not mediate a dispute resolution that is contrary to the best interests of the child or is inconsistent with the law or state policy. Additionally, the Ombudsman cannot and will not serve as an agent of law enforcement, find individual fault, act as an attorney, provide legal advice, or in any way participate in a case that is imminently bound for court upon the petition of termination of parental rights, abuse, neglect, dependency, or child custody.

Any individual who has knowledge of a child or family who may be the recipient of state custody services may contact the Ombudsman program with his or her questions or concerns. To date, referrals have been received from representatives within the departments of Children Services, Education, Mental Health and Mental Retardation; the governor's regional offices; various legal services offices; private legal representatives; therapists; residential providers; foster parents; biological and adoptive parents; family members; and neighbors.

Upon initial contact, the Ombudsman will first determine if the referent has attempted to resolve his or her question or concern through normal administrative channels. The Ombudsman program is not designed or intended to supersede the existing appeal or grievance mechanisms established within the child and family services system. Referents who have not attempted to have their concerns answered in this manner are informed of the appropriate contacts for their specific issue. When referents have valid reasons to depart from normal administrative systems or have attempted these and been dissatisfied with the results, the Ombudsman may accept referral.

During the data-gathering phase of the referred review, the Ombudsman initiates a series of structured interviews with individuals directly involved in the child's and family's custody case. These contacts may include the parent(s), Department of Children's Services case manager or probation officer, Department of Children's Services field services management or central office staff, Assessment and Care Coordination Team case manager, direct caregiver, residential provider, foster parent, therapist, counselor, Home Ties therapist, guardian ad litem, attorney, managed care organization (MCO) representative, behavioral health organization (BHO) representative, private insurance representative, medical provider, teacher, school principal, school superintendent, relatives, and friends.

Preliminary contacts are used to verify referral information specific to the child's custody status; the type and quantity of services provided; and facts specific to the question or concern. Following initial interviews, follow-up contacts are used on an ongoing basis to share information among parties involved in the case. The data-gathering phase of the referral process may require anywhere from two days to two weeks on any given case.

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OMBUDSMAN

Through case-specific contacts, the validity of the question or concern will be determined. Referrals determined to emerge from issues of a lack of information or misinformation concerning state custody services result in Ombudsman efforts to provide the referent with accurate and pertinent information. This information may be provided directly by the Ombudsman when appropriate or a topic-related expert when available or necessary.

Referrals determined to emerge from issues related to the referent's concern about or mistrust of the information provided within the children's services system are responded to with a neutral explanation of policies and procedures by the Ombudsman. Referrals that emerge from issues related to specific complicating factors resulting in obstacles to the agreed case outcome or the best interests of the child result in mediation facilitated by the Ombudsman. Building on the common interest - the best interests of the child - the Ombudsman facilitates communication between all parties involved in a problematic case. Mediation efforts lead to the re-staffing of the case to finalize the agreed-upon strategy for overcoming the obstacles recognized in the case.

Upon resolution of the referral, the Ombudsman conducts periodic follow-up interviews with the parties involved. The intent of these follow-up contacts is to determine satisfaction with Ombudsman services, answer additional or remaining questions, and monitor adherence to agreed-upon strategies for problem resolution. In referrals where communication between consumer and provider was problematic, periodic Ombudsman reinvolvement may be required to facilitate ongoing progress.

Ombudsman Activity in Fiscal Year 1996-97

Referral Source	Referrals	Non-Referrals*	Information	Total
Biological Mother	15	4	18	37
Biological Father	1	1	4	6
Grandparent	4	-	2	6
Foster Parent or Sibling	5	1	-	6
ACCT / DCS	5	1	-	6
Attorney or Guardian	1	2	1	4
Friend / Neighbor	3	-	-	3
Aunt / Uncle	3	-	-	3
Court	2	1	-	3
Home Ties / Therapist	2	-	1	3
Child	2	-	-	2
U.S. Senator	-	-	1	1
State Attorney		1		1
Total	43	11	27	81

Contacts Per Case	Referrals	Non-Referrals	Information	Total
Total	595	79	136	810
Average	14	7	5	
Range	68 - 1	9 - 1	19 - 1	

Referral Outcomes	Active Cases	Closed Cases*	Total
Total	37	6	43

*Non-referrals involved cases in transition or cases where custody status is unknown.
**Note: Cases closed due to child's departure from state custody.

TEEN PREGNANCY

In 1988, Public Chapter No. 874 established the annual designation of model community-based programs that are "worthy of emulation" with respect to one or more of the following services for teens: family life education; prevention of teen pregnancy; counseling services for teens who are or think they are pregnant; prenatal care; parenting skills education; job training and placement; or education and support services.

Model programs were jointly designated by the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth and the state departments of Education, Health, Human Services, Labor, and Children's Services and recognized by a special legislative committee chaired by Representative Lois DeBerry.

In fiscal year 1991-92 the statutory authorization for designating Model Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Teen Parenting Programs (Tennessee Code Annotated 37-3-111) expired. Under separate statutory authority through the appropriations bills, small one-time grants, up to $6,000 each, continued to be available to community-based programs to replicate the model programs or add components of the models to existing programs. TCCY coordinates the application and the interdepartmental review process for selection of Model Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Teen Parenting replication programs. An Interdepartmental Committee with representatives from the TCCY and the state departments of Children's Services, Education, Health, Human Services, and Labor selects the replication grantees each year.

The following programs have been designated as "Model Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Teen Parenting Programs" in Tennessee:

- Athens Junior High School Family Life Education, Athens;
- Baby Boosters, Nashville;
- Bristol City Schools/Sullivan County Health Department Family Life Education, Bristol;
- Cannon County Child Protection Council, Woodbury;
- Chattanooga Adolescent Awareness Team (CHATT), Chattanooga;
- Crittenton Awareness Team, Nashville;
- Crittenton Services School-Based Counseling Program, Nashville;
- I Have a Future Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program, Nashville;
- Johnson City Schools Family Life Education Program, Johnson City;
- Kingsport City Schools Family Life Curriculum, Blountsville;
- Male Connection, Memphis;
- Memphis City Schools Collaborative Care Project, Memphis;
- Mother Love, Memphis;
- Networking for Children and Families, Newport;
- PG-13 Players, Nashville;
- Project Responsible Adult Parenting (RAP), Memphis;
- Rule High School Preschool and Parenting Learning Center, Knoxville;
- Sunrise Program, Memphis;
- Teens are Caring for Teens Team (TACT Team), Ripley;

TEEN PREGNANCY

- Tender Loving Care (TLC) Program, Chattanooga;
- Washington County Schools Pregnancy Prevention Program, Jonesborough;
- Young Adult Parenting Program, Kingston; and,
- Young Moms Program, Johnson City.

In fiscal year 1996-97, 23 applications were received, and 10 were funded for replication of model programs. A list of the recipients of the competitive grants follows:

- Columbia Cares, Inc., Columbia;
- Crittenton Center, Knoxville;
- Crittenton Services, Inc., Nashville;
- Dyer County Board of Education, Dyersburg;
- Greene County Schools, Greeneville;
- Metro Nashville-Davidson County Juvenile Court;
- Planned Parenthood East TN, Oak Ridge;
- Rural Cumberland Resources, Crossville;
- Socially Yours for Youth, Inc., Memphis; and,
- Tellico Plains High School, Tellico Plains.

The teen pregnancy rate has been relatively stable for the past few years and consistently below the highest level in 1991. The Model Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Teen Parenting Programs and replications, the Adolescent Pregnancy Initiative, implementation of the family life curriculum, and improvements in education regarding AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases are factors thought to have contributed to an end to continually rising rates.

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TITLE VI

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 states:

> "No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." (Public Law 88-352, Title VI, § 601, July 2, 1964, 78 Stat. 252.)

As an administrator and recipient of Federal funds, it is the intent of TCCY to bind all agencies, organizations, or governmental units operating under its jurisdiction and control to fully comply with and abide by the spirit and intent of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

From July 1, 1996, to June 30, 1997, there were no complaints reported to the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth regarding discrimination on the grounds laid out in Title VI.

Specific Title VI related activities during fiscal year 1996-97 included the following:

- Submission of the annual Title VI Policy and Procedures Implementation Plan to the Tennessee Human Rights Commission.
- Appearance at a hearing before the Human Rights Commission and the Black Caucus Title VI Review Subcommittee to review the plan.
- Inclusion in TCCY grant applications questions requiring applicants to address how minority populations will be served through the agency's proposed program.
- Inclusion of Title VI language in all contracts executed by TCCY.
- Collection of data to ensure Title VI compliance.
- Initial development of a database to more effectively analyze data collected from Title VI assessments.
- Inclusion of a formal statement regarding Title VI compliance in its newsletter, *The Advocate*, which is distributed statewide.
- Orientation of staff and Commission Members to Title VI.
- Inclusion of Title VI training in a TCCY presentation at the Juvenile Court Services Association Annual Conference in August 1996.